IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for jamming communications between [[a]] an implantable medical device and an external communications device to prevent data transfer, the method comprising; ~~the steps of~~

receiving an external input at [[a]] an external blocking device to begin jamming the communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device; ~~and~~

transmitting a jamming signal from the external blocking device to jam the communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device, wherein the jamming signal is selected to target a particular frequency range selected for use in the communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device;[[.]] and

using the jamming signal, jamming communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device to prevent data transfer between the implantable medical device and the external communications device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the external blocking device [[is]] includes a short range jamming transmitter.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the jamming signal blankets the frequency range used for the communications.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the short range jamming transmitter is in proximity to the implantable medical device and wherein transmitting a jamming signal from the external blocking device to jam the communications comprises preventing the implantable medical device from receiving a solicitation to begin transmitting that is sent by the external communications device.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications occur through a cellular phone system employing control channels and the jamming signal blankets the control channels used for the communications.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the input is received in response to manipulating a user interface at the external blocking device.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an indication of jamming, wherein the indication is a visual indication on the external blocking device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an indication of jamming, wherein the indication is an auditory signal transmitted by the external blocking device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ determining whether a ~~predetermined~~ specified period of time has passed and, if so, then ceasing to transmit the jamming signal.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications comprise communications related to electively recorded physiological patient data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting communications between [[a]] an implantable medical device and an external communications device to prevent data transfer, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving at an external location an external input to begin inhibiting the communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device, wherein the external input is configured to instruct the external communications device to cease sending a solicitation for data to the implantable medical device, ~~wherein the medical device is an implantable medical device~~; and

upon receiving the input, ceasing to establish data transmission to the external communications device of the data generated from the implantable medical device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the input is received at the external communications device and ceasing data transfer comprises ceasing sending a solicitation for data from the external communications device to the implantable medical device.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the input is received at [[a]] an external blocking device and wherein ceasing data transmission comprises sending a communication from the external blocking device to the external communications device instructing the external communications device to cease sending a solicitation for data to the implantable medical device.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~further~~ comprising generating an indication of inhibited communications, wherein the indication is a visual indication on the external blocking device.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~further~~ comprising generating an indication of inhibited communications, wherein the indication is an auditory signal transmitted by the external blocking device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ determining whether a ~~predetermined~~ specified period of time has passed and, if so, then no longer ceasing to establish data transmission from the implantable medical device to the external communications device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the data transmission comprises communications related to electively recorded physiological patient data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting communications between an implantable medical device and an external communications device to prevent data transfer, the method comprising:

receiving at an external location an external input to begin inhibiting the communications between the implantable medical device and the external communications device ~~The method of claim 11,~~ wherein the input is received at the implantable medical device through a physiological sensor and wherein ceasing to establish data transmission comprises stopping transmitting of communications from the implantable medical device[[.]]; and

upon receiving the input, ceasing to establish data transmission to the external communications device of the data generated from the implantable medical device.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the input comprises a signal at an accelerometer of the implantable medical device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the signal received at the accelerometer comprises a series of taps on [[the]] a patient's body.

22-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An implantable medical device, comprising:

[[a]] an implantable communications system that sends and receives signals;

at least one implantable physiological sensor that detects physiological information about a patient to produce data;

[[a]] an implantable controller configured to detect an input at the at least one physiological sensor indicating that data transmission should cease, and to cease transmitting data through the communication system upon detecting the input.

39. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 38, wherein the at least one physiological sensor comprises an accelerometer, and wherein the input is a signal from the accelerometer resulting from taps by a patient wearing the medical device.

40. (Original) The medical device of claim 38, further comprising a timer, and wherein the controller detects from the timer the amount of time that data transmission has ceased and restarts data transmission upon the expiration of a pre-defined interval.

41-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A system for inhibiting communications between an implantable medical device and an external device to prevent data transfer therebetween, the system comprising:

means for receiving an external input to a physiological sensor to begin inhibiting the communications between the implantable medical device and the external device; and

means for, upon receiving the input, ceasing to establish data transmission to the external device of the data generated from the implantable medical device.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the jamming signal is operable to prevent reception of communications by the implantable medical device.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, in which the jamming signal is operable to prevent reception of communications by the implantable medical device that are intended to cause the implantable medical device to begin transmitting data.